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AGRICULTURAL.



"Agriculture is the chief foundation of a nation's power, as it not only furnishes man with food and clothing, but also with materials for the mechanic arts, and commerce."

From the Valley Farmer.

Address.

Prepared by a Committee of the Boone County (Mo.) Agricultural and Mechanical Society.

MR. PRESIDENT:—Your Committee, to whom was referred the preparation of an Address to the Farmers and Mechanics of Missouri, have attended to that duty, and would report the following to your consideration:

To the Farmers and Mechanics of Missouri:

FELLOW-CITIZENS:—To you who have with us a common interest in all that can promote our success and secure the prosperity of our profession, we appeal for your sympathy, for your aid and co-operation, in our efforts to place the Agricultural and Mechanical Arts of Missouri in that pre-eminence they so eminently deserve. While the practical deductions of science have given a new impulse, infused new life and energy into almost every department of human industry, we are cultivating our farms as did our sires and grandsires before us. While by the applications of science Watt and Fulton have given us steamships to spurn the winds and stem the rolling currents of our mighty rivers, while the steam horse is puffing his way along the iron track to our rich prairies, while the lightning speeds to us the last changes in stocks and merchandise, and every move upon the political chess-board, while, in short, progress is stamped upon every thing, the farmer and mechanic are plodding on "in the good old way of our fathers." The result is, we, in this land of mighty forests, are importing and paying three prices for our lumber. Our houses, plank roads, and fences, cost twice their usual prices. We go east for our agricultural and mechanical implements of every grade, from the plow to the butter stamp. With iron mountains and inexhaustible coal beds, we import every article of iron from the anvil to the tennypenny nail. Our mineral veins contain nearly every paint, from the costly small blue to the yellow ochre; and yet all we use, with a single exception, comes from a foreign market. While we are exhausting the virgin wealth of the richest soil the sun shines upon, our crops are no better than those harvested from the once barren hills of New England; and inferior races of stock crop our luxuriant prairies.

But you may say, "we are doing very well as we are." Perhaps "we are doing well enough;" yet, if we listen to that siren song, we may be aroused from our pleasant dreams to the humiliating reality that our neighbors, with fewer natural advantages, are reaping richer harvests and supplying our markets with their domestic manufactures. While our mothers were doing well enough with their distaff and handlooms, and paying six bits for cotton, the factory girl, with her power-loom, supplied the same article for one-tenth the price. While our fathers were doing well enough, shut up between the Atlantic and the Alleghenies, the restless energy of that daring spirit whose name our county bears crossed those mountains, penetrated those boundless forests, and opened the vast resources of this mighty valley. While the planters of Virginia were doing well enough, many of them were surprised to find their soils exhausted and unproductive. Many are doing well enough with mule wagons and mud roads; but the steam-horse, with his iron sinews, proclaims their thriftless folly. While the jolly flat-boatsman was doing almost too well, the steam whistle startled him from his easy jollity, and gave a ten-fold energy

to the commerce of our western rivers. When perfection is reached, then, and not till then, will it be safe to "let well enough alone."

The divine economy wisely provides that we shall eat our bread by the sweat of the brow; yet no divine or human wisdom demands that we shall toil and sweat, and sweat and toil on, from year to year, simply for the corn cake and bacon our appetites demand. We believe we can do better—that we can become better farmers and better mechanics; and like true Anglo-Saxons we repudiate the idea that any thing is well enough, which can be bettered. We therefore unfurl the banners of our professions, also inscribed with the glorious motto—PROGRESS.

In our efforts we ask the sympathy and aid of every profession. We do not ask others to labor for our benefit only, but for theirs also. We are the great heart of the body politic; if its pulsations are languid, the life-blood will flow feebly in every department of human industry. We do not ask it as a favor; we demand it as a debt of long standing, one so just that all have frankly confessed the obligation whenever and wherever its claims have been presented.

Since man was driven from Eden we have fed and clothed the world; we have built its dwellings, and filled them with plenty and luxury; we have raised the mettlesome steed, constructed the iron horse, and launched the merchantman and the steamship upon the trackless ocean; we have been freely taxed for the support of public schools, and have contributed liberally for the endowment of colleges and universities, for the education of physicians and clergymen, lawyers and gentlemen; and yet we look in vain for a school where the science of Agriculture is practically taught.

This, we contend, is wrong; and as the guardians of our children's inheritance, as the lovers of our common country, we have resolved to do our duty in remedying the evil, that we, who have so freely aided others, will make one manly effort to aid ourselves. Since our charities have not commenced at home, let them at least cheer our own firesides in their round of visitations.

We propose to accomplish the following objects:

1st. To improve our Stock of Domestic Animals.

That better stock can be obtained than what we now possess, no one will doubt; and that good animals are more profitable than poor ones, is equally evident. It costs but little more to raise a horse worth two hundred dollars than it does one worth half that sum. A cow that milks twenty quarts eats but little more than one that milks only ten. And the same principle holds good respecting every class of animals, from the noble horse to the barn-yard fowl. Here, then, by a little outlay and a generous co-operation, we can greatly increase the pleasure and income derived from our domestic animals.

2d. To introduce the best varieties of our staple crops.

Farmers often cultivate an inferior variety, when a little effort would provide such seed as would secure a better crop, without any additional labor or expense of cultivation. All such increase would be net profit; and, though it amount to only a few dimes per acre, it would yield no mean sum continued through an ordinary life.

Again, it is a law of all vegetables improved by cultivation, whether grain, roots, or fruit; that they degenerate by a constant cultivation in the same locality; but that a change of culture or locality will often improve them in both quality and quantity. Hence sound reason dictates a judicious introduction of new varieties, or the same from some distant locality, or one different in soil or culture.

3d. To introduce improved Agricultural and Mechanical Implements.

If one man with a threshing or planing machine can do better and more work than five, it will need no argument to prove the advantages to be derived from the introduction of these implements together with the Reaping Machine and Steam Saw-mill with its gang saws.

4th. To introduce improved modes of culture.

We will mention a single illustration only from the many which might be adduced. An excess of rain often retards the operations of the farmer much to his own inconvenience and the detriment of his crops; while a scarcity of wet often proves equally destructive to the product of the field.—But a judicious system of subsoiling and ditching

will most effectually counteract these evils. That subsoiling and ditching are efficient antidotes to both an excess and dearth of rain may well be called the Agricultural Paradox; and yet both Philosophy and experience amply sustain the proposition. They are also most efficient means of promoting and sustaining the productive energies of the soil.

5th. To introduce new staples for cultivation.

The expenses for transportation greatly reduce the profits of our farms. This evil would be obviated by the culture of such staples as would find a market nearer, or such as would be less in weight and bulk, thus decreasing the cost of exportation. Indigo and opium would meet both these conditions. The home consumption of them is not small; and the product of an acre would weigh but a few pounds only, and its transportation to a domestic or foreign market would be at least ninety-nine per cent. less than corn or wheat. If, in Europe these staples are more profitable than corn at five dollars per barrel, they most certainly would be with us where corn is much cheaper, and the climate and the poorest soils are as well adapted to their culture.

6th. To introduce such a system of culture as will prevent that exhaustion of the soil which has proved so disastrous in some of the older States.

Some in their mad zeal have declared this exhaustion of soil a peculiar result of slave labor. But until they prove the sweat of the African less fertilizing than that of the Caucasian, we will seek the causes in the modes of culture, and apply the remedies indicated by agricultural science.

7th. To induce our State to provide a School, or an adjunct to some School where sons may be thoroughly and practically taught all those Sciences which pertain to the Agricultural and Mechanical Arts.

It may be said we have good Schools now.—This is true; and it is doubtless true that the branches provided for are as well taught as their means will permit, and that they answer all the purposes of the learned professions. But something must be done for our professions. We wish them so educated that they can bring all the treasures of science to the improvements of the farm and the workshop.

Our sons are taught to trace the root of a word up through the French, Italian, Latin, Greek and Sanscrit, to discover its true meaning. But who of them can trace the root of a potato beneath the soil and discover the food it seeks there? They can discourse learnedly upon the feet and caecuras of the Greek Hexameter, and sing "Tityre tu patu—"

with all the sweet elegance of a Virgil. But they have scarcely dreamed that fixed laws govern the development of animal and vegetable structure. They are left in stupid ignorance of the glorious miracles of the organic world—the life-giving flow of the sap—the pulsations of the life-blood, and the telegraphic connection of the mind, nerve, and muscle. They can measure the height of a lunar mountain, and decompose the nebulae of the Milky-way; yet their science would be at fault in removing a mole-hill, or in compounding a cement to pave a foot-path.—They are carefully taught all the rules which govern the acquisition of wealth; yet they might live and die upon the richest mineral beds as ignorant of their presence and value as the bears of California.

Such a state of things is wrong. We contend that the Natural Sciences, those practical deductions of all the experience of preceding generations, can be so taught as to benefit our professions more than any others. Farmers and Mechanics have lived as long, and have made as many useful discoveries as Lawyers and Physicians; and the result of their experience embodied in the Natural Science, can be made as accessible to the pupil as the principles of law or medicine. The experience of Archimedes and Cincinnatus is as valuable to us as that of Lycurgus and Aesculapius to those learned professions. Liebig and Cuvier have done as much for the Agricultural and Mechanical Arts as Blackstone and Hunter for Law and Medicine.

We therefore ask for the adoption of such measures as will enable our sons to obtain a practical knowledge of all those sciences which pertain to Agriculture, Mechanics and Mining. We seek the adoption of no Utopian theory, no doubtful experiment. The matter has been tested and the results have proved most beneficial to the hands and

pockets of those interested. That scientific agriculture can make the desert bloom like a garden has been too often demonstrated by experiment to need support at this late day. Many an acre once barren on the sandy shores of Maryland and Long Island, and among the stony hills of New-England annually yield their rich harvests, a golden tribute to science. Lavoisier, the distinguished French chemist, was one among the first to apply his science to agriculture. His experiments were made upon his own domain of 400 acres; and on the second year the products of his estate were doubled, and the profits quadrupled. That and similar results produced a general movement in favor of scientific agriculture. Nearly all the governments of Europe established agricultural schools whose beneficial effects have been so obvious that they have been increased in number and facilities truly surprising. France has seventy-five agricultural colleges and schools, Russia sixty-eight, Belgium one hundred, and all the States of Europe about four hundred.

The kingdom of Prussia, like Missouri, is essentially an Agricultural and Mining State. It has a system of public schools, so general, so thorough, and so practical, in its applications to the business of life, as to command the admiration of all enlightened nations. Among the established schools of this system there are six Agricultural Colleges, ten Agricultural Schools of inferior grade, seven devoted to flax culture alone, two to the management of meadow lands, one to sheep culture, and forty-five model farms for educational purposes. These schools, and particularly the first six, are provided with every means of education, and their professors are among the first scientific men of Germany.—Such are the means, in all seventy-one establishments, provided by the Government of Prussia for an agricultural education. So much has been done by a monarchy not twice as large as Missouri, with a population of fifteen millions; yet proud America, with her vast domain, and boasted education, has not a single agricultural school worthy of the name. That the effects of this vast outlay has been beneficial to Europe we can well judge from the facts that new schools are being built on the most liberal basis, that Prussia has been changed from the most barren to one of the most fertile States of the world, and that the agricultural products of Europe have been doubled under its happy influences.

If the Emperor of Russia for one only of his sixty-eight agricultural schools, can profitably appropriate three thousand acres of land, build upon it forty college buildings, and annually educate several thousand students—if France can spend six hundred thousand dollars annually for instruction in only three of her schools—if Prussia can with profit invest millions in agricultural schools, cannot Missouri invest a few thousands, with equal chances of success? There is scarcely a doubt that a small sum judiciously expended in developing and publishing the agricultural mineral resources of our State would be repaid a thousand fold by the consequent increase of population and wealth.

It may be said that these comparisons disparage the merits of our prosperous land; yet a healthy and national pride, would lead us to place our industrial arts, not merely in a position equal to those of other countries, but in one commensurate with our superior advantages. Egypt has a fame as imperishable as her pyramids; and yet the proudest page of her history is that which proclaims her the granary of the world. When America gave the world a telegraph—when her mechanics and sculptors bore away the prizes of a World's Fair—when her steamships surpassed all competition, and her clippers commanded the commerce of India and the Queen of the Ocean—those are proud days in her history; yet the era most cherished in the American heart is that which opened our full storehouse to feed the starving millions of the far off Fatherland. But there is a brighter future before us. When the sturdy mechanic and the hardy yeoman shall be prepared to appropriate all the principles and discoveries of science to their peculiar arts; when science shall have wooed and won the industrial arts, and they shall have spent their honeymoon in the busy mart and the blooming field; then, and not till then, shall happy America realize her high destiny.

Farmers of the Country.—The number of landholders, that is, persons owning farms, in this country, is about a

million and a half out of twenty millions of white population. In Great Britain, the number of landholders is only 30,000 out of a population of 27,000,000.

POLITICAL.

Who is Franklin Pierce.

The abuse of the whig journals of the Seward stamp shows plainly that their editors know Gen. Pierce well, and are afraid of him, as they were of Gen. Jackson and Col. Polk. But we will nail those editors to the counter as base coin, by a "cloud of witnesses" they dare not controvert.

"You have a young man growing up in your State, the young Franklin Pierce, that will be, before he is sixty years of age, a man for the Democracy, without the Demagogue."—[ANDREW JACKSON to Gen. Hibbard of N. H.]

When President Polk signed the commission of Gen. Pierce, appointing him to a command in the army in Mexico, he turned to Gen. Armstrong, and Mr. Walker, and said, "I am now commissioning a man who will one day be President."

"I look upon Franklin Pierce as one of the most reliable men, as a statesman and patriot, that the country has produced."—[J. C. CALHOUN.]

GEN. SCOTT'S OPINION OF GEN. PIERCE.—I know that much anxiety and many trials are to be passed through before the ratification of the people will be heard. Whether it shall confirm the action of the convention or not, I shall be satisfied, for I know it will be conferred upon a man deserving your confidence and support.—[Late Washington speech.]

"I must say without disparagement to any, that the nomination which has been made, is destined to carry with it quite as much, if not more, influence in the election, than any other that could have been made. I regard Gen. Pierce's election as next to certain."—[JOHN TYLER.]

"I know Gen. Pierce well—he is the very man for the times—he has always commanded the attention of the American Senate when he spoke—and he has the intellectual qualifications necessary to render his Administration of the Government wise, able and successful."—[HON. JAS. BUCHANAN.]

"Gen. Pierce has both ability and generous qualities, and if elected to the highest office in the gift of twenty five millions of people, will doubtless secure honor to himself, his office, and the country."—[Congregational Journal, edited by a whig.]

"Franklin Pierce is without doubt, one of the ablest men in the Democratic party."—[Manchester (N. H.) Adv., whig.]

"Gen. Pierce is entitled to respect and confidence. He has the rare and high qualification of rather shunning than seeking official promotion. Everything I have known or heard of General Pierce, has been in his favor."—[N. Y. Freeman's Jour.]

General Pierce has a position, on which every Democrat can rally. He was the special friend of New York's great statesman, Silas Wright, and of General Cass and President Polk. He is the son of General Benjamin Pierce of New Hampshire, a soldier of distinction in '76, who was Governor several times. Franklin Pierce served for several Congresses in the United States House of Representatives, and Senator five years, enjoying all the time very high esteem as an able and discreet Senator, noted for the solidity and soundness of his opinions, and as a pleasant, logical speaker.—He is as much of the Baltimore Convention school as James K. Polk himself. If elected President, his talents are quite equal to the discharge of its duties, and personally he enjoys the reputation of an honorable and unimpeached gentleman. When in Congress he uniformly discountenanced Anti-slavery agitations, and on the Compromise question, will no doubt, be a decided upholder of the laws, in all their vigor.—He is a formidable competitor to the strongest nomination the Whigs can make for they have to encounter a united and determined party.—[N. O. Picayune, neutral.]

Hon. Mr. Eastman of the Nashville American rejoices at the nomination of General Pierce, an old friend, and says he was Speaker of the N. Hampshire Legislature as soon as he attained the required age; filled various offices with great ability, but refused a seat in the Cabinet of Col. Polk two or three times, declaring he would only take any station required of him in the army. He put down slavery agitation at home,

met the Hales and Free Soil Whigs, face to face, and New Hampshire never faltered when he was in the field. He can't be beat, for no man enjoys a more deep-seated popularity than he does.

Gen. Scott gone over to Seward bodily.—The whigs of Ohio held a Rationation meeting at Ravenna on the 10th instant. The Scott Club at that place was addressed at night by the Hon. Daniel R. Tilden, a Whig free soiler, who in the course of his speech, introduced and read a letter just received from Hon. B. F. Wade, Whig Senator at Washington, in which Senator Wade writes:

"I have this day had a conversation with Gen. Scott in which he declared he would sooner cut off his right hand than lend it to the support of slavery."

Prediction of Mr. Webster.—The Concord (N. H.) Patriot states, that during the recent visit of Mr. Webster to his farm at Franklin, a lady, a relative, remarked to him, "Well, Mr. Webster, I was really in hopes that some time I should see a live President of the United States." "You will yet, madam," was the instant reply of Mr. Webster, "if you and Gen. Pierce live until next March." We have the above from the lips of the husband of the lady, who was himself present.

Gen. Quitman.

This gallant officer has written a letter in which he says that he does not approve the resolution of acquiescence in the Compromise, adopted by the Democratic National Convention, though he does approve all the other resolutions contained in its platform. He will not, for this reason, take an active part in the canvass, though he will vote the ticket. In reference to Gen. Pierce, he uses the following warm terms of commendation:

"I knew General Franklin Pierce personally while we were in the service together and since. His high intellectual qualities, his quick perception, and accurate judgment of men, secured my respect, while his nice sense of honor, his sincerity, and his pure-minded, disinterested integrity won my warm regard and friendship. His nomination was highly acceptable to me."

From the Mobile Register.

The London Leader—a paper which is conducted with much ability, and which generally takes a just estimate of the position of parties in the United States—closes an article upon the democratic candidate for the presidency with the following sentences, showing that the editor fully understands and appreciates the character of Gen. Pierce:

"It is evident that the General's unassuming demeanor covers an ardent and energetic capacity, which has always risen with the occasion; and it would seem that, possessing in a moderate degree the ambition of the official man and the power hunter, he possesses, in the very highest degree, the ambition of the citizen and the patriot, the servant of his country."

Caught at Last.

The Scott journals are all crying out that Pierce was in no battle in Mexico.—Some of them vary the slander by saying that he was there and behaved like a coward, thus giving the lie to General Scott, who says he performed all the duties of a gallant soldier. Among the foremost of these slanderers is the editor of the Lowell Courier. He has, however, been silenced by an extract from one of his own letters, written during the war, and before he was hired to calumniate Gen. Pierce. He wrote as follows:

"At the battle of Molino del Rey the New England regiment was ordered to take off the dead and wounded, and cover the withdrawal of the troops from the field. The duty assigned to it was an honorable one, and was worthily performed. General Pierce led this portion of his brigade before the blazing fire of the enemy's cannon with a degree of courage and daring which has been spoken of with admiration.—He narrowly escaped with his life several times, the six-pounders ranging within a few inches of him, and ploughing the ground by the side of his horse.—He continued waving his sword and encouraging his troops all the duty assigned was performed. The cry was, 'Come on, brave New England boys!'"